

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01200 211510Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /059 W  
-----011988 211712Z /50

R 211312Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4459  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

CONFIDENTIAL CONAKRY 1200

ABIDJAN FOR MURRAY

DAKAR FOR SCHOONOVER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, GV, EAGR  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ADVICE TO GOG RE AGRICULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION AND METHODS

1. SUMMARY: GROSS FAILURES IN GUINEAN AGRICULTURE SUGGEST  
POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING US AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST TO  
STUDY GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION AND METHODS WITH VIEW  
TO IDENTIFYING SIMPLE CHANGES THAT COULD BRING INCREASED  
PRODUCTION. ANY SUGGESTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SKILLFULLY PUT  
TO PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTH TRYING IF  
ADDRESSEES BELIEVE AN AMERICAN SPECIALIST COULD INDEED  
COME TO VALID CONCLUSIONS AND MAKE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS ON THE  
BASIS OF A REASONABLY SHORT VISIT HERE. END SUMMARY

2. WHILE GOG ECONOMIC POLICY GIVES PRIORITY TO  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REPORTS AND EVIDENCE INDICATE  
SOCIALIST-ORIENTED "BRIGADE" APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION HAS BEEN ABYSMAL FAILURE AND EXPANSION OF  
ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION BY BRIGADES HAS DAMAGED  
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LAND, WATERSHED AND OVERALL ECOLOGY. IN VIEW OF  
SERIOUSNESS OF THIS PROBLEM AND ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE  
PLANS TO COPE WITH IT, WE WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT BE  
USEFUL TO BRING A FIRST-CLASS AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL  
AUTHORITY TO SURVEY GUINEAN AGRICULTURE AND IDENTIFY  
SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT COULD PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT  
INCREASES IN OUTPUT AND ARREST THE DESTRUCTION

OF THE LAND.

3. THE SUBJECT OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY IS A SENSITIVE ONE, AS THE BRIGADE SYSTEM IS DEAR TO PRESIDENT TOURE'S HEART, AND MOST MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT HESITATE TO TELL HIM HIS IDEAS ARE DEFECTIVE. HOWEVER, TOURE HAS OFTEN CITED AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AS THE MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD AND IN HIS SPEECH OF MAY 24, HE SPECIFICALLY INVITED COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, AS LONG AS THEY WERE CONSTRUCTIVE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECENTLY SUGGESTED TO EMBOFF THE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING AN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST TO LECTURE TO GUINEAN AGRICULTURE SCHOOLS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES; MIGHT IT BE POSSIBLE FOR SUCH PERSON TO DO THIS WHILE STUDYING THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM AND THE BRIGADES, AND AT THE END OF HIS VISIT GIVE THE PRESIDENT, IN PRIVATE, THE BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS AS TO WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT?

4. IDEA IS AN ATTRACTIVE ONE, AS IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE IS BADLY NEEDED AND WOULD BE HIGHLY VISIBLE IF ACHIEVED, MAKING MAJOR INPUT INTO GUINEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. OUR INTEREST IN OFFERING SUCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE APPRECIATED BY GOG, BUT SEKOU TOURE'S ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEMATIC. HE HAS VERY DOGMATIC VIEWS ON AGRICULTURE, ALTHOUGH THIS SPRING HE WAS ACTIVELY CANVASSING MINISTERS FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURE. MOST EFFECTIVE TACTIC WOULD PROBABLY BE TO SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS THAT MIGHT BE MADE IN BRIGADE SYSTEM WHILE MAINTAINING OUTWARD APPEARANCE. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS BRIGADES MIGHT IN EFFECT BE TRANSLATED INTO VOLUNTARY PRODUCTION COOPERATIVES. IN ANY EVENT, PRESENTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE WITH GREAT SKILL AND TACT BY SOMEONE WHO RELATES WELL TO GUINEANS AND SEKOU TOURE IN PARTICULAR, AS DID NORM SCHOONOVER ON HIS VISIT HERE IN JANUARY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A. WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES' VIEWS AS TO WHETHER IT IS LIKELY A VISITING AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST COULD COME TO ANY VALID CONCLUSIONS AND MAKE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT DURING PROPOSED TYPE OF VISIT.

B. HOW LONG WOULD VISIT NEED TO BE? WHAT SORT OF SPECIALIST SHOULD HE BE, AND IS THERE A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT FILL THE BILL? (SCHOONOVER

HIMSELF? OR PERHAPS SCHOONOVER PRESENTING THE  
CONCLUSIONS OF SPECIALIST'S FINDINGS?) COULD AGRICUL-  
TURAL SCHOOL LECTURE ROLE BE COMBINED WITH A GENERAL  
SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT, OR WOULD  
THE SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE TO BE HANDLED  
SEPARATELY?

C. WHAT WOULD BE BEST TIMING FOR SUCH AN EFFORT?  
WE INCLINE TOWARD OCT-NOV-DEC, WHEN RAINS SHOULD BE  
TAPERING OFF AND HARVESTING ACTIVITY UNDERWAY.

6. LOOK FORWARD TO ADDRESSEE COMMENTS.  
CROSBY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
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**Draft Date:** 21 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014